

KATRINA RECOVERY: DAILY MESSAGE POINTS

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 11, 2005

Department of Health & Hospitals

- A updated number of **fatalities** has been announced at **154**
 - o This number will be updated as often as possible when deaths are determined to be storm-related
- The status of **public water systems** that have been affected by Hurricane Katrina is being updated on a daily basis
 - o Visit www.dhhemergencynews.com for more information
- In an effort to streamline the process for registering of **medical volunteers**, DHH has established a Web site at www.helpthemnow.net
- DHH, in conjunction with several other state and federal agencies is implementing a **mosquito control plan** in the New Orleans area
 - o Beginning Sunday, September 11, US Air Force planes will begin aerial spraying in that area

Department of Transportation & Development

- **Traffic Operations**
 - o Traffic Operations Engineers are working this weekend in the Baton Rouge area to improve timing and phasing of traffic signals on critical corridors
 - o Traffic signals on US 90 on Westbank, US 61 on Eastbank, US 190, LA 21, LA 25, LA 10, HWY 16 and LA 22 through Covington have all been repaired
 - DOTD is awaiting power from Entergy
- **Motorist Assistance Patrol (MAP)**
 - o MAP services in Baton Rouge will be 16 hours per day beginning Monday with a tow truck on I-12 at the Amite River Bridge to remove disabled vehicles from the interstate.
- The **New Orleans Airport** plans to **start commercial services** on Tuesday
- **Port Update**
 - o **Port of New Orleans**
 - 12 damaged wharfs and one wharf that is inaccessible because of flooding
 - The remaining wharfs had little damage, and all but one are workable with availability of electricity and manpower.

- The Port of New Orleans is partially operational with the container terminal operational Wednesday, September 14, 2005
 - Truck access to the westbank on the CCC to the container terminal has been granted
- **Port of South Louisiana** experienced **minor structural damage**. Port of South Louisiana is **85% operational**
- **Port Fourchon** suffered **considerable damage**. Port Fouchon is operating at **50%** on generator power
 - Capacity of 85% is anticipated by September 16, 2005
- **No damage at the Port of Baton Rouge**, which continues to address and respond to immediate needs from the maritime community
- **Port of Plaquemines suffered extensive damage and is currently not operational.**
- **St. Bernard Port docks** appear to be **structurally sound** and are being used by military for search and rescue. The port will resume operation at reduced capacity once flooding subsides and power is restored.
- **Rail Update**
 - CN and KCS 's route from Baton Rouge to New Orleans is in service
 - CN's route into New Orleans from Hammond will be out until at least next week
 - Expect to have service reestablished from the northeast along the Crescent Line by Monday or Tuesday
 - New Orleans Public Belt has most of the railroad is in good shape except the Gentilly area which can't be evaluated
- **Levees & Pumping Stations**
 - DOTD, working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and West Jefferson Levee District (helping out Orleans levee district)
 - Has completed repairs to the levee breach at the 17th Street Canal
 - **6 of 15 pumps at the 17th St. Canal** (District 6 station) are **operational**, pumping 2,825 cubic feet of water per second
 - 8 portable pumps are adding 308 cfs capacity
 - The London Street Canal is being blocked off from the lake by sheet pilings
 - More than 500 sandbags have been airlifted and dropped into the southernmost breach

- **Bridge Update**
 - o There is **no apparent structural damage** to the **Huey P. Long Bridge** or to the Crescent City Connection
 - o Light traffic is being allowed to cross on one lane of the La. 1 bridge over Camanada Bay to Grand Isle
 - The hurricane caused **superstructure damage**
 - o DOTD has inspected **46 of the 49 moveable bridges** that were affected by the storm
 - The remaining three bridges will be inspected by Monday
 - Thus far-- 16 bridges are inoperable
 - 6 are inoperable because of no power
 - These bridges will be operated manually if needed
 - Another 22 are damaged and need repairs
 - And 2 have been repaired
- **Ferry Update**
 - o DOTD has resumed **normal operations** at the **Plaquemines/Sunshine ferry** and the New Roads/St. Francisville ferry
 - o The ferries in **Reserve and White Castle** are **not operational**
- **Customer Service Center Update**
 - o Total Number of Calls since August 31, 2005 = 3086
 - o Number of calls on September 9, 2005 = 285
- DOTD has signed two contracts for debris removal in the greater New Orleans area and in the Florida parishes
- DOTD has directed a letter to our Congressional Delegation recommending FEMA accelerate the reimbursement process.
 - o Florida DOT is owed \$77M from FEMA for Hurricane Ivan and has only collected \$720,000

Department of Social Services

- During the first phase of the Disaster Food Stamp Program, the Office of Family Support certified **218,438** applications
 - o Totaling about **\$72.2** million in benefits for victims of Hurricane Katrina
- The second phase of the Disaster Food Stamp Program began Saturday and will continue thru Sept. 17
 - o Office hours vary, according to parish
 - o Residents from the following devastated parishes may participate: Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Washington, St. Tammany, St. Charles, St. John, West Feliciana, Lafourche, Terrebonne, Tangipahoa, Livingston and St. Helena
- There are currently **58,187** displaced citizens in **296** Louisiana shelters
 - o Another **428** citizens are housed in **6** special needs shelters

Department of Environmental Quality

- A large number of oil recovery trucks were positioned at Murphy Oil to continue cleaning up the 10-15 thousand barrel spill at the Meraux location
- The Bass Enterprise spill, North of Venice, is now estimated at 90,000 barrels.

Department of Labor

- DOL continues to urge injured workers who were receiving workers' compensation benefits before Hurricane Katrina to call the Workers' Compensation office immediately to update their contact information.
 - o The toll-free number is 1-866-783-5567

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

- **U.S. Secretary of Commerce Announces Fishery Failure and Fishery Resource Disaster**
 - U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez announced a formal determination of a fishery failure in the Gulf of Mexico on Sept. 9
 - This action is the first step in attaining federal relief funds and is made through provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- **LDWF Assesses Damage in Affected Area**
 - o The LDWF staff continues to survey and assess damage to habitat and department resources in southeastern Louisiana
- **Inland Fisheries Division**
 - o Inland Fisheries biologist Joe Shepard reported extensive areas of black water in Lake Maurepas tributaries including Blind River, the Tickfaw and lower Amite River which he described as "completely black" and devoid of oxygen
 - o Plumes of black water extend into Lake Maurepas about a quarter of a mile where the rivers empty into it
 - o Those waters flow up and hug the northern bank of the lake
 - o Manchac Pass exhibits a mix of healthy and black waters
 - o The Tangipahoa and Tchefuncte rivers are black near Lake Pontchartrain
 - Those waters empty into the lake and hug the northern bank
 - o Bayou Liberty and the Pearl River are not as affected, nor is the Biloxi Marsh, where live fish can be seen
 - o Shepard also observed live fish in ponds around the lower Mississippi River, though there was extensive damage to vegetation
 - o Evidence of several oil leaks can be seen in Black Bay and farther south
 - o The major spills appear to have containment booms around them

- **Wildlife and Fur and Refuge divisions**
 - 3 wildlife management areas managed by the Wildlife Division are in the affected area
 - Those include Ben's Creek, Sandy Hollow and Pearl River WMAs and cover about 50,000 acres.
 - LDWF is repairing damage to infrastructure on Pearl River WMA
 - On all three areas, LDWF is re-establishing access and assessing habitat impact
 - Fur and Refuge Division WMAs in the area include Pointe-Aux-Chenes, Pass-a-Loutre, Wisner, Salvador and Biloxi.
 - These WMAs cover about 250,000 acres
 - Vegetation damage on these coastal areas is substantial
 - Piles of vegetation uprooted by the storm pose navigational impediments
 - Structures on Pointe-Aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs sustained some damage
 - Crews at Pass-a-Loutre are repairing structures and performing assessment on this important area to migratory waterfowl
 - It appears that the entire deer herd on the area was lost
- **Search and Rescue Efforts Continue**
 - Though significantly scaled back, LDWF Enforcement Division search and rescue efforts continue
 - Agents are cooperating with National Guard troops in these operations

Board of Regents/ Colleges & Universities

- Board of Regents information hotline for displaced students: **1-866-415-2269**, or log on to www.regents.state.la.us
- For information on **TOPS**, call **1-800-259-5626 ext. 1012**
- The **Louisiana Community and Technical College System** has established **four student information lines**: 225-922-1633, 225-922-0958, 225-922-0959, and 225-922-0804
- U-L Lafayette's United Campus Ministries will hold a candlelight vigil for those affected by Katrina Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 8 p.m. in the Quad
- On Sept. 15 and 16, UL-Lafayette will hold two **orientation sessions** for displaced students.
 - From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday

- Both sessions will be in the Student Union Ballroom on campus
- Call the Orientation Office at 482-1391 for more information
- **UL-L's Continuing Education Program** of the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions of UL Lafayette will present a series of **9 continuing education programs each year.**
 - Each program provides 6 CEs, which you may need to renew your license.
 - Registration is free to RNs for either the October, November, or December programs.
 - Call the College of Nursing, at 225- 482- 6682 for more information

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